

**From:** <sonjapoet12@comcast.net>  
**To:** <paulbaker@utah.gov>  
**Date:** 7/27/2010 11:05 AM  
**Subject:** Tar Sands

Dear Paul and others facing this difficult decision:

I am a citizen of this beautiful state.

Utah has been producing fossil fuels for years. We provide all forms of fossil fuel to the citizens of this state and others. We have refineries in the neighborhoods north of Salt Lake. We have and are doing our part.

Other than jobs and tax revenues from workers and hopefully those profiting from these polluting industries, how will toxic tar sands excavation benefit Utahns? You are a Utah State Division, right? Do we benefit from having our own oil, coal, and natural gas extraction now? Do we benefit from having our very own refineries? Do we pay less for gas? No, we have even paid more than the national average for weeks at a time.

That aside and to the point. What possible need and/or justifications are there for allowing a Canadian company to destroy pristine lands within the watershed of the Colorado River?

I support the Boards decision to refuse this Canadian proposal and I believe the millions who rely on the Colorado River for life sustaining waters support you, too.

Sometimes, preserving life and the resources that support life must trump profits and revenues. If nothing else, the Gulf of Mexico gusher, the recent oil shale refinery explosions within 15 miles of Salt Lake City, and our recent oil spill have proven that, yes, things can go wrong.

The Colorado River is too big to risk.

Thank you for your consideration of the publics concerns. I certainly don't envy your responsibilities and can only imagine the pressures you may be under to allow this potential environmental tragedy to transpire.

Sincerely,  
Sonja Mitchell